GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2033
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
RESERVES OF OIL AND GAS IN BENGAL BASIN
BASUDEB ACHARIA;LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of a huge reserve of oil and gas in Bengal Basin;

(b) if so, whether any private agencies have been issued licences for its exploration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2033 for answer on 29.11.2001 regarding Reserves of oil and gas in Bengal basin.

(a): No oil and gas reserves have been established as yet in the Bengal basin.

(b) & (c): Under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed in April, 2000 with the consortium of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL)-OAO Gazprom and consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd.-Nik Resources Ltd. for two exploration blocks in North-East Coast offshore, namely NEC-OSN-97/1 and NEC-OSN-97/2 respectively.

Further, under the second round of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts have been signed in July, 2001 with consortium of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) for two exploration blocks, one in onshore i.e. WB-ONN 2000/1 and one in offshore i.e. WB-OSN-2000/1 in the Bengal basin.